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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/SE, EUR/SCE (SHIRATORI, PFEUFFER)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/26/2019

TAGS: AORC PREL SE KO CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR SERBIA'S ICJ CASE
ON KOSOVO

REF: SECSTATE 29385

Classified By: DCM Jonathan Cohen, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

(C) In response to Reftel, PolChief on March 27 engaged Doros Venezis, the Cypriot Foreign Ministry's Western Balkans Desk Officer. The RoC continued to oppose Kosovo's 2008 unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) on the strongest possible terms, Venezis reiterated. Cyprus had supported Serbia's effort within the UN General Assembly to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the UDI's alleged illegality, and intended to file a written statement by the April 17 deadline in line with Belgrade's claims. Restating the traditional MFA mantra, Venezis insisted that Kosovo was not a *sui generis* case, but rather represented dangerous precedent for countries such as Cyprus that were confronting separatism.

Urbancic